

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL,  
CONTINUATION OR CIP)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

**TYPE OF DECLARATION**

This declaration is of the following type: (check one)

original  
 design

(check one, if applicable)  
 national stage of PCT  
 supplemental

divisional  
 continuation  
 continuation-in-part (CIP)

**INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION**

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**TITLE OF INVENTION**

**SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE**

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**SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION**

the specification of which: (complete (a), (b) or (c))

- (a)  is attached hereto.
- (b)  was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  Serial No.  
or  Express Mail No \_\_\_\_\_ as Serial No. not yet known.  
and was amended \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).
- (c)  was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/US2003/031638  
filed on October 6, 2003 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

FOREIGN PRIORITY CLAIM

[ ] I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, U.S.C. §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

(d) [X] no such applications have been filed.  
(e) [ ] such applications have been filed as follows

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
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[ ] YES [ ] NO

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER U.S./PCT APPLICATION(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120

[X] I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §120, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Prior U.S. Application(s) or PCT International Application(s) Designating the U.S. For Benefit Under 35 U.S.C. §120.

U. S. APPLICATIONS

Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (issued, pending or abandoned)
60/416,055	4 October 2002	Abandoned

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.

PCT Application No.	PCT Filing Date	U.S. Serial No.	Status
		Assigned (if any)	(patented, pending, abandoned)
PCT/US2003/031638	6 October 2003		Pending

P O W E R O F A T T O R N E Y

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

**DONALD L. WEBBER**, Reg. No. 34,275; **MARK FARBER**, Reg. No. 34,159; **PAUL AUDET**, Reg. No. 26,439; **KIMBERLY V. PERRY**, Reg. No. 43,612; and **LISA J. MOYLES**, Reg. No. 40,737; each of them of United States Surgical, a division of TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP, 150 Glover Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06856.

**DAVID M. CARTER**, Reg. No. 30,949; **PETER DELUCA**, Reg. No. 32,978; **RAYMOND E. FARRELL**, Reg. No. 34,816; **JOSEPH W. SCHMIDT**, Reg. No. 36,920; **JEFFREY S. STEEN**, Reg. No. 32,063; **RUSSELL R. KASSNER**, Reg. No. 36,183; **CHRISTOPHER G. TRAINOR**, Reg. No. 39,517; **GEORGE LIKOUREZOS**, Reg. No. 40,067; **EDWARD C. MEAGHER**, Reg. No. 41,189; **FRANCESCO SARDONE**, Reg. No. 47,918; **DANA BRUSSEL**, Reg. No. 45,717; **JAMES M. LOEFFLER**, Reg. No. 37,873; **MICHAEL R. BREW**, Reg. No. 43,513; **MICHAEL J. PORCO**, Reg. No. 46,007; and **BERNADETTE BENNETT**, Reg. No. 44,532; each of them of CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT LLP, 445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 225, Melville, New York 11747.

Send Correspondence to:

Lisa J. Moyles  
Senior Patent & Trademark Counsel  
United States Surgical, a division of  
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP  
150 Glover Avenue  
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856

Direct Telephone Calls To:

Lisa J. Moyles  
(203) 845-1941

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

Full name of sole or first inventor Keith L. MILLIMAN  
Inventor's signature Beth L. Miller  
Date 8/30/2004 Country of Citizenship US (1874)  
Residence 5 Marywood Road, Bethel, CT, US  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of sole or first inventor Bruce K. JANKOWSKI  
Inventor's signature B. Jankowski  
Date 6-31-04 Country of Citizenship US  
Residence 17 Woodlawn Terrace, Meriden, CT 06450 (167)  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for added signature pages for third and subsequent inventors. Number of added pages is 1.

3P  
Full name of sole or first inventor Douglas J. CUNY  
Inventor's signature Douglas J. CUNY  
Date 8-31-04 Country of Citizenship US  
Residence 2 Linda Lane, Bethel, CT 06801, US USA  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

4W  
Full name of sole or first inventor Kevin SNIFFIN  
Inventor's signature Kevin SNIFFIN  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Citizenship US USA  
Residence 38 Grand Street, Danbury, CT 06810, US  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
+

5W  
Full name of sole or first inventor Anthony DATO  
Inventor's signature Anthony DATO  
Date 9-1-04 Country of Citizenship US USA  
Residence 3 Lynn Court, East Haven, CT 06512, US  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

6W  
Full name of sole or first inventor Richard D. GRESHAM  
Inventor's signature Richard D. Gresham  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Citizenship US USA  
Residence 134 East Gate, Guilford, CT 06437 US  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_